

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Response to Rejections

The Applicant has reviewed the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-~~15~~, 17, 19 and 21-34 set forth in the Office Action. Each of the claims were rejected specifically under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White (U.S. Patent No. 6,644,547) in view of Zicker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,523).

Notwithstanding the comments in the Office Action, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are overcome. White was filed on March 28, 2000 as U.S. patent application no. 09/537,080. Although this filing date of White predates the filing date of the present Application (July 23, 2000), the present Application claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application no. 60/158,444 filed on October 9, 1999. Consequently, the Applicant submits that White does not constitute prior art with respect to the present Application under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 102(e).

For at least these reasons, therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome, and respectfully requests allowance of the present Application. The Applicant in particular reminds the Examiner of the Interview with the Applicant that was conducted on January 18, 2005, and respectfully requests allowance of the present Application in view of that Interview.

Amendment of Claim 1 in View of Paragraph 2 of the Office Action

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful scrutiny of the pending claim language and agrees that claim 1 at line 14 should read "inventory" rather than "inventor". The Applicant has amended the language of claim 1 accordingly.

Comments Regarding Information Disclosure Statements

Insofar as the Applicant believes that the present Application is now in condition for allowance, the Applicant wishes to remind the Examiner of the various Information Disclosure Statements that the Applicant has submitted to the Patent Office over the course of the past 5 years. The Applicant requests that the Examiner confirm that each of these Statements have been received and considered by the Patent Office.

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Reply Dated July 4, 2005
Response to Office Action of May 19, 2005

In particular, the Information Disclosure Statements submitted to the Patent Office by the Applicant include the following:

- 1) IDS submitted on October 8, 2000 including 17 references.
- 2) IDS submitted on July 18, 2001 including 17 references.
- 3) IDS submitted on May 17, 2003 including 2 references.
- 4) IDS submitted on May 22, 2005 including 2 references.

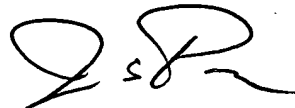
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Conclusion

In view of the Applicant's Remarks and Amendments submitted herewith, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present Application, including all of the pending claims 1-4, 6-15, 17, 19 and 21-34. The Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with the submission of this Fifth Amendment.

The Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the Applicant at the telephone number listed below if discussion with the Applicant would further the prosecution of the present Application, or otherwise be of assistance to the Examiner.

Respectfully,



John T. Pienkos
Applicant

Dated: 7/4/05
5017 N. Hollywood Ave.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
(414) 228-6881